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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Providence Pictures Completes Principal Photography for NOVA's *Building Wonders of the World* on PBS**

*Providence, R.I.* – The Rhode Island Film and Television Office announced today Providence Pictures completed principal photography on its *Building Wonders of the World* series for NOVA on PBS with an historic event — the building and installation of a twenty foot tall lift and trap door system in the Colosseum in Rome, and the release of a wolf into the arena.

In addition to the lift for the Colosseum, Providence Pictures worked with earthquake engineers in Istanbul to build an eight-ton brick and mortar model of the 1500 year-old Hagia Sophia, placed it on a seismic shake table, and pushed it to collapse. The experiment was designed to investigate how Hagia Sophia has been able to withstand centuries of city busting earthquakes while buildings around it collapsed.

For Providence Pictures' film on Petra in Jordan, the rock-carved city made famous by *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*, Glassman and his team worked with archaeologists and carvers to sculpt a full-scale tomb into a cliff-face to discover how the ancient Nabataeans built Petra.

"We congratulate Rhode Island filmmaker Gary Glassman and his acclaimed company, Providence Pictures, for creating their latest work of quality television for PBS' NOVA series," stated Governor Lincoln D. Chafee. "With our unique locations in close proximity to an organized talent pool of local artists and technicians, Rhode Island is the perfect place to make successful productions. I am pleased that many small businesses are benefiting from these types of productions."

"Part of the mission of the Department of Administration's Film and Television Office is to support the efforts of our local producers and directors, such as Gary Glassman," added Richard Licht, Director of the Department of Administration. "We are pleased that Providence Pictures continues to produce excellence from their home base in Rhode Island."

"Gary Glassman is an award-winning, innovative storyteller," stated Steven Feinberg, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Film and TV Office. "He makes masterful documentaries for a worldwide audience. We are fortunate to have such a big talent exporting excellence from the smallest state in the union. His most recent creation, the *Building Wonders of the World* series, will only continue to enhance that wonderful reputation."

"This is the first time an animal has been lifted and released into the Colosseum in fifteen hundred years," stated Rosella Rea, the Director of the Colosseum.

"We dreamed up ambitious projects in some of the world's most fascinating places and were fortunate to find people who shared our vision — from scientists and scholars, public officials, workers, and NOVA on PBS, one of the few places on TV committed to intelligent programs," added producer/director Gary Glassman.

The three films – *Unshakable Hagia Sophia*, *Lost City of Petra*, and *Secrets of the Colosseum* – are scheduled to broadcast on NOVA on PBS in February 2015.

Providence Pictures, a Rhode Island based independent production company founded in 1996, has produced nearly 50 programs for NOVA, Discovery, History, National Geographic, BBC, Arte, and more. Providence Pictures' films have won and been honored with nominations for the industry's most prestigious awards: six Emmys, two Writers Guild Awards, the AAA Science Journalism Prize, the CINE Golden Eagle Special Jury Award, and the International Archaeology Film Festival Award.

Trailer: <http://www.providencepictures.com/news/2014/05/BWW-Teaser.html>

Hi-resolution images available upon request from [gary@providencepictures.com](mailto:gary@providencepictures.com).

Department or agency: Department of Administration's Film and Television Office

Online: [www.film.ri.gov](http://www.film.ri.gov)